April 2, 2018

Why Drug Prices are Sky High

A bundle of middlemen are responsible for high drug prices. Arrangements between health plans, drug distributors and manufacturers and drug management companies make it difficult for newer, less expensive drugs to be sold.

Those who manufacture older more expensive drugs make exclusive agreements with health plans that agree to cover only the older drugs in exchange for rebates and discounts (kickbacks) kept by the health plans.

The FDA calls this a “rigged payment system.” In response, one health plan will pass some of the rebate back to patients to lower drug costs. Congress should repeal the law that allows these kickbacks. In the future I’ll talk about another key player in prices.


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

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